

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested. Amendments have been made to obviate the current objections. No new matter has been added.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1 - 31 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("APAA" - namely the "Background" section of the specification) and further in view of Manno et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the availability query is created while the auxiliary computing platform is disconnected from the principal computing platform (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 26). This amendment was based, in part, on suggestions on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action as well as a discussion between the undersigned and the Examiner on September 5, 2007. Similar amendments were made to claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21.

Claims 1, 5, and 9, as clarified, provide an arrangement that overcomes problems associated with conventional systems, such as those described in the background of the specification, by obviating the need for online checks (i.e., availability checks when the computing device is connected to a computer network to a back-end system, etc.). As previously stated, there is no suggestion in the background of the application that it was known to initiate queries while the PDA or laptop computer of an individual in a remote location while such a computing device was "offline". Such an arrangement avoids a sales person from having to tether their laptop to initiate a query. Accordingly, the cited references fail to teach the recited subject matter.

Therefore, claims 1, 5, and 9 and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

Claim 13, 17, and 21 describe an arrangement in which a replica database is resident on the auxiliary computing platform and that the replica database is synchronized with a back-end system. Queries generated at the auxiliary computing platform are run against this local replica database as opposed to the back-end system. The background of the specification does not suggest that an availability check can be run locally while that the mobile device is offline or that mobile computing devices can include replicated and synchronized databases. Moreover, Manno describes an arrangement in which the remote point of sale systems are continually connected. As a result, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine these two references, nor would the skilled artisan have resulted in the claimed subject matter if such references were for some reason combined.

Accordingly, claims 13, 17, 21, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

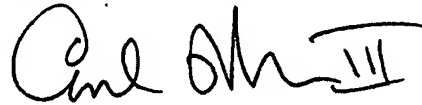
Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-283.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 6, 2007

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